

Legislative Bulletin.....March 15, 2010

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H.Res. 1145 - Recognizing the University of Arizona's 125 years of dedication to excellence in higher education (*Giffords, D-AZ*)

Order of Business: The resolution is scheduled to be considered on Monday, March 15, 2010, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the resolution.

Summary: H.Res. 1145 that the House of Representatives:

- “Recognizes the University of Arizona for 125 years of dedication to excellence in higher education;
- “Congratulates the University of Arizona on the occasion of its 125th anniversary, and
- “Expresses thanks to the University of Arizona for its contribution to the betterment of the United States.”

The resolution contains a number of findings, including:

- “The University of Arizona was authorized by Arizona's 13th Territorial Assembly on March 12, 1885;
- “The University of Arizona is Arizona's only member of the prestigious 62-member Association of American Universities;

- “The University of Arizona offers 122 undergraduate degrees, 217 graduate programs, and 3 professional schools including pharmacy, medicine, and law; and
- “University of Arizona students have consistently answered the call to service as memorialized by the clock tower of the Student Union Memorial Center, home to a bell rescued from the USS Arizona after the attack on Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941.”

Committee Action: H.Res. 1145 was introduced on March 9, 2010, and referred to the House Education and Labor Committee, which took no public action.

Cost to Taxpayers: The resolution authorizes no expenditures.

Does the Bill Expand the Size and Scope of the Federal Government?: No.

Does the Bill Contain Any New State-Government, Local-Government, or Private-Sector Mandates?: No.

Does the Bill Comply with House Rules Regarding Earmarks/Limited Tax Benefits/Limited Tariff Benefits?: A committee report citing compliance with the rules regarding earmarks, limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits is not available. However, the resolution does not contain any earmarks.

Constitutional Authority: A committee report citing constitutional authority is unavailable.

RSC Staff Contact: Curtis Rhyne, Curtis.Rhyne@mail.house.gov, (202) 226-8576.

H.Res. 1170 - Congratulating the winners of the Voice of Democracy national scholarship program (Hunter, R-CA)

Order of Business: The legislation is scheduled to be considered on Monday, March 15, 2010, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the legislation.

Summary: H.Res. 1170 resolves that the House of Representatives:

- “Congratulates the winners of the Voice of Democracy national scholarship program.”

The resolution contains a number of findings, including:

- “The Voice of Democracy (VOD) scholarship program is an audio-essay contest for high school students in grades 9 through 12 that annually provides more than \$3,000,000 in scholarships;

- “The Veterans of Foreign Wars has sponsored the Voice of Democracy scholarship program since 1947 and has encouraged students to express patriotism since that time;
- “The 2009-2010 Voice of Democracy theme is ‘Does America still have heroes?’; and
- “More than 50,000 American students across the world participated in the Voice of Democracy competition for the 2009-2010 school year.”

Committee Action: H.Res. 1170 was introduced on March 11, 2010, and referred to the House Education and Labor Committee, which took no public action.

Cost to Taxpayers: The resolution authorizes no expenditures.

Does the Bill Expand the Size and Scope of the Federal Government?: No.

Does the Bill Contain Any New State-Government, Local-Government, or Private-Sector Mandates?: No.

Does the Bill Comply with House Rules Regarding Earmarks/Limited Tax Benefits/Limited Tariff Benefits?: A committee report citing compliance with the rules regarding earmarks, limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits is not available. However, the resolution does not contain any earmarks.

Constitutional Authority: A committee report citing constitutional authority is unavailable.

RSC Staff Contact: Curtis Rhyne, Curtis.Rhyne@mail.house.gov, (202) 226-8576.

H.Res. 1163 - Recognizing Washington State University Honors College for 50 years of excellence (McMorris Rodgers, R-WA)

Order of Business: The bill is scheduled to be considered on Monday, March 15, 2010, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill.

Summary: H.Res. 1163 resolves that the House of Representatives:

- “Recognizes Washington State University Honors College for 50 years of excellence.”

The resolution contains a number of findings, including:

- “Washington State University Honors College was established in 1960, 70 years after the founding of Washington State University;
- “Washington State University, located in Pullman, Washington, is the State's largest land-grant university and offers more than 200 areas of study;

- “Studies at the Washington State University Honors College promote the six learning goals of the Honors College, including critical and creative thinking, quantitative and symbolic reasoning, information literacy, communication, self in society, and disciplinary knowledge; and
- “Washington State University Honors College is one of the most respected programs of its kind nationally.”

Committee Action: H.Res. 1163 was introduced on March 11, 2010, and referred to the House Education and Labor Committee, which took no public action.

Cost to Taxpayers: The resolution authorizes no expenditures.

Does the Bill Expand the Size and Scope of the Federal Government?: No.

Does the Bill Contain Any New State-Government, Local-Government, or Private-Sector Mandates?: No.

Does the Bill Comply with House Rules Regarding Earmarks/Limited Tax Benefits/Limited Tariff Benefits?: A committee report citing compliance with the rules regarding earmarks, limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits is not available. However, the resolution does not contain any earmarks.

Constitutional Authority: A committee report citing constitutional authority is unavailable.

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H.R. 2377 - To direct the Secretary of Education to establish and administer an awards program recognizing excellence exhibited by public school system employees providing services to students in pre-kindergarten through higher education (*Titus, D-NV*)

Order of Business: The legislation is scheduled to be considered on Monday, March 15, 2010, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill.

Summary: H.R. 2377 directs the Secretary of Education to establish and administer a national recognition program for classified school employees, known as the “National Classified School Employees of the Year Awards.”

The legislation defines “classified school employees” as employees working in pre-kindergarten through higher education in the areas of: paraprofessionals, clerical services, custodial and maintenance services, transportation services, food services, skilled trades, health and student services, security services, and technical services.

The Secretary would accept nominations from the chief state school officer, the nominations would be based on the individuals work performance, school and community involvement, leadership and commitment, local support, the employees' image in the community and other unspecified areas of performance.

Potential Conservative Concern: Some conservatives might be concerned that a recognition program like this should be done by a private or more localized entity. For example, the Council of Chief State School Officers recognizes the Teacher of the Year, and this is not a federal program. Also, this recognition is not a role of the federal government and could create an unnecessary precedent for other federal programs to recognize specific professions. Furthermore there are no similar federal recognition awards for teachers, professors, or researchers.

Committee Action: H.R. 2377 was introduced on May 12, 2009 and was referred to the House Education and Labor Subcommittee on Early Childhood, Elementary, and Secondary Education.

Cost to Taxpayers: No CBO report is available.

Does the Bill Expand the Size and Scope of the Federal Government?: No.

Does the Bill Contain Any New State-Government, Local-Government, or Private-Sector Mandates?: No.

Does the Bill Comply with House Rules Regarding Earmarks/Limited Tax Benefits/Limited Tariff Benefits?: A committee report citing compliance with the rules regarding earmarks, limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits is not available.

Constitutional Authority: A committee report citing constitutional authority is unavailable.

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H.R. 4628 - To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 216 Westwood Avenue in Westwood, New Jersey, as the “Sergeant Christopher R. Hrbek Post Office Building” (Garrett, R-NJ)

Order of Business: The legislation is scheduled to be considered on Monday, March 15, 2010, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill.

Summary: H.R. 4628 would designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 216 Westwood Avenue in Westwood, New Jersey, as the “Sergeant Christopher R. Hrbek Post Office Building.”

Additional Information: Sergeant Christopher R. Hrbek was a member of the 3rd Battalion, 10th Marine Regiment, 2nd Marine Division, II Marine Expeditionary Force at Camp Lejeune, N.C. He was killed on January 14, 2010 while supporting combat operations in the Helmand province in Afghanistan. Hrbek was a local firefighter who joined the Corps in January 2003 in response to September 11. He was going to be awarded a Bronze Star with combat “V” for saving the life of his sergeant major, who stepped on an IED under enemy fire on December 23.

Committee Action: H.R. 4628 was introduced on February 22, 2010, and referred to the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee, which held a markup and passed the legislation.

Cost to Taxpayers: A CBO report is unavailable, but the only costs associated with a U.S. federal building renaming are those for sign and map changes, none of which significantly affect the federal budget.

Does the Bill Expand the Size and Scope of the Federal Government?: No.

Does the Bill Contain Any New State-Government, Local-Government, or Private-Sector Mandates?: No.

Does the Bill Comply with House Rules Regarding Earmarks/Limited Tax Benefits/Limited Tariff Benefits?: A committee report citing compliance with the rules regarding earmarks, limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits is not available.

Constitutional Authority: A committee report citing constitutional authority is unavailable.

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**H.Res. 267 - Recognizing the cultural and historical significance of
Nowruz, expressing appreciation to Iranian-Americans for their
contributions to society, and wishing Iranian-Americans and the people
of Iran a prosperous new year (*Honda, D-CA*)**

Order of Business: The resolution is scheduled to be considered on Monday, March 15, 2010, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the resolution.

Summary: H.Res. 267 resolves that the House of Representatives:

- “Recognizes the cultural and historical significance of Nowruz;
- “Expresses its appreciation for the contributions of Iranian-Americans to society in the United States in observance of Nowruz; and
- “Wishes Iranian-Americans and the people of Iran and all those who observe this holiday a prosperous new year.”

The resolution contains a number of findings, including:

- “Nowruz marks the traditional Iranian New Year, which originated in ancient Persia, and dates back more than 3,000 years;
- “Nowruz is celebrated by nearly 300,000,000 Iranians and other peoples all over the world, including in the United States, Iran, and other countries in Central Asia, South Asia, Caucasus, Crimea, and Balkan Regions;
- “In 539 B.C., Cyrus the Great established one of the earliest charters on human rights, which abolished slavery and allowed for freedom of religion, and this marker in Iranian history has had significant impact on the respect for human rights that Iranian-Americans carry today;
- “Iranian-Americans continue to make contributions in all sectors of American public life, including as government, military, and law enforcement officials working to uphold the Constitution of the United States and to protect all people in the United States; and
- “Iranian-Americans are vibrant, peaceful, and law-abiding citizens, many of whom are Baha'i, Christian, Jewish, Muslim, and Zoroastrian faiths.”

Committee Action: H.Res. 267 was introduced on March 19, 2009, and referred to the House Oversight and Government Committee, which held a markup and agreed to the resolution by unanimous consent.

Cost to Taxpayers: The resolution authorizes no expenditures.

Does the Bill Expand the Size and Scope of the Federal Government?: No.

Does the Bill Contain Any New State-Government, Local-Government, or Private-Sector Mandates?: No.

Does the Bill Comply with House Rules Regarding Earmarks/Limited Tax Benefits/Limited Tariff Benefits?: A committee report citing compliance with the rules regarding earmarks, limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits is not available. However, the resolution does not contain any earmarks.

Constitutional Authority: A committee report citing constitutional authority is unavailable.

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